



RULES COMMITTEE: 11-17-04

ITEM: G(2)

Memorandum

TO: RULES COMMITTEE

FROM: James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: RED CURB STANDARDS
FOR SCHOOLS**

DATE: November 10, 2004

Approved

Kay Winer

Date

11/12/04

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is recommending that schools requesting red curbing be referred to DOT staff for investigation in order to make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

BACKGROUND

This memo is in response to a citizen's request that the City adopt an ordinance establishing the length of red curb required adjacent to school crosswalks. The length of red curbing needed in front of schools depends upon many factors and requires engineering judgment to evaluate each individual situation.

The need for red curbing can differ significantly from school to school, depending upon such factors as pick-up and drop-off locations; neighborhood traffic patterns; traffic volumes on the street, traffic circulation around the schools; availability of parking spaces in front of schools; average speed on a street fronting the school; street width; travel lane width; geometry of the street or curvature of the street; history of recorded incidents at, or close to, school property; traffic controls at the intersection closest to the school; availability of parking capacity in the school parking lot; and many more.

Therefore, each location needs to be studied on a case-by-case basis to factor in all of these circumstances in order to provide the best safety recommendation for each school. Adopting a "one size fits all" policy, as Mr. Wetzel requests, would be counterproductive in addressing individual safety concerns at San José schools.

for James R. Helmer
JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation